

**South Dakota
Part C Annual Performance Report 2005-2006
February 1, 2007**



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South Dakota, Birth to 3 Connections program – Part C obtained broad stakeholder input from the state when developing the Annual Performance Report (APR). This included:

- Collaboration with Part C Birth to 3 Connections state staff, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, Special Education Program Consultant and Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) to provide technical assistance on the process of developing the APR.
- Input from service coordinators at the Fall Training in October 2005 and 2006.
- Input from the State Interagency Coordination Council and additional individuals who comprised the Stakeholder Group collaborated with the State Lead Agency (Department of Education) to develop the APR. The Stakeholders met on October 25, 2006. The members consist of a variety of different areas such as Early Head Start, Division of Insurance, Early Intervention Provider, Parents, SD Parent Connections, Department of Health, Personnel Preparation, Prevention Provider, Medicaid, State Homeless, State Foster Care/Child Protection Services, Children's Mental Health, Child Care Services, Regional program contractors, Birth to 3 Connections Service Coordinators, Education Cooperative, Council of Administration of Special Education (CASE), Part B, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center and Part C staff.
- Annual Performance Plan and updated State Performance Plan were shared with the members after the Stakeholder meeting and the Interagency Coordinating Council for additional comments and changes.
- The Part C Annual Performance Report and updated State Performance Plan was made available for public comments through the Birth to 3 Connections website <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/Birthto3/index.asp>. Six papers in South Dakota made available the DOE website concerning the SPP and APR.
- The website with the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report was shared with regional programs and service coordinators.
- Hard copies were made available for any individual making a request for one through the Department of Education website.

When the APR plan is finalized, Part C Birth to 3 Connections program will disseminate the report in the following ways:

- The Part C Annual Performance Report and updated State Performance Plan are available on the Birth to 3 Connections website.
- Six papers in South Dakota made available the DOE website concerning the Part C SPP and APR.
- South Dakota Parent Connection will announce publication of the Part C Annual Performance Report and revised State Performance Plan on the Birth to 3 Connections website in the newsletter "The Circuit" so parents can access it.
- Provide the website for accessing the State Performance Plan to the members of the Stakeholders including the Interagency Coordinating Council, regional contract areas, service coordinators, and providers.
- The Birth to 3 Connections program will be publicly reporting the local data on the required Indicators (1,2, 5, 6, 7, & 8) by individual regional programs from the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Plan Indicators to the state/federal required targets. The information will be available no later than March 1, 2007 on the Birth to 3 website.
- Hard copies will be made available for any individual making a request for one.
- Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to:

South Dakota Department of Education
Birth to 3 Connections Program
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006**Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:****Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments**

Indicator 1: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Measurement:

Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner) divided by the (total # of infants and toddlers with IFSPs)] times 100.

Account for untimely receipt of services.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	100 percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs will receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 is 100%: [Target Met.](#)

South Dakota Part C program did meet the target July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 as results of monitoring the three local programs during the scheduled monitoring cycle (see Table # 1). The state has changed the monitoring process to include timely services. During the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, the state monitored the following areas and did not find compliance issues with these local programs on timely services.

Table # 1

Local Program	Monitoring	Number of Files Reviewed	# of Files with Timely Services	Findings on Timely Services
River Birth to 3 Connections	March 2006	17 files	17 files	-0-
Center for Disabilities Birth to 3 Connections	May 2006	62 files	62 files	-0-
Black Hills Birth to 3 Connections	June 2006	52 files	52 files	-0-

Regional area programs are reviewed every three years by the state. Each of the 9 programs will be reviewed within the 3 year scheduled monitoring cycle. In December 2005 the Birth to 3 Connections program revised the monitoring system to allow better monitoring of this indicator by adding a step to the monitoring process to identify more precisely the provision of timely services. The monitoring process includes early intervention record review of 30% of the files randomly selected. The data are valid and reliable because the data system is used to compare the IFSP meeting and the first billing of each service to determine if timely services are being met. In addition there are interviews with parents and local service providers. A survey is sent directly from the state office to all parents in the regional program that includes questions about timely services. The findings from these monitoring

procedures are compiled into a final report. An improvement plan with corrective action steps and timelines for correction is developed by the regional area program and approved by the state Part C staff. Technical assistance is provided to the regional program areas as needed to ensure closures of corrective action plan within one year.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

The target 100 percent for 2005-2006 as set in the SPP December 2005 was met as required. There was no slippage in meeting the target.

The Birth to 3 Connections program has corrected non-compliance identified in Indicator #1 in 2004-2005. As reported in the SPP December 2005 to develop baseline data, the Birth to 3 Connections program reviewed 4 months of data from January 01 – April 30, 2005 comparing the date of the IFSP meeting and the date of the first billing of services on the IFSP. Eighty-nine percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs received the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner. During this 4 month period 151 files were reviewed. The state Birth to 3 Connections program drilled down into the records and identified 16 children who did not meet the 30 day criteria. In the SPP, the state identified 17 children. When we investigated these children the state office realized that one of these children had received timely services. These children were spread very broadly over the 6 of the 9 Birth to 3 Connections programs monitored. As of Feb. 2007, all of the 6 programs have corrected their non-compliance for timely services.

The state office realizes that timely services were not defined to the local programs and providers before pulling the data for the SSP. Since this time, the state has addressed timely services in a variety of ways. To address the compliance issues the following actions were taken:

- The Payor of Last Resort form was revised and a statement added regarding the 30 day timeline for early intervention providers to review.
- An insert regarding the 30 day timeline requirement was written and is being sent along with every Payor of Last Resort authorization that is sent out to early intervention providers for the next 6 months (September – February).
- A statement was added to the Provider Agreement on providing services within 30 calendar days from the date the parent signs the IFSP. The Birth to 3 Connections program strongly encourages that services start within the week/month/quarter depending on the frequency of services designated by the IFSP team.
- A letter was sent in September 2006 to all providers with a *Technical Assistance Document* explaining timely services. This *Technical Assistance Document* is also posted on the Birth to 3 Connections website.
- A letter has been sent to the local programs and the providers involved in the noncompliance of timely services.
- The state office began monitoring for timely services in the 2006 cycle via the Quality Assurance Review process. The three programs monitored, River Birth to 3, Center for Disabilities Birth to 3, and Black Hills Birth to 3 were found to be in compliance.
- During the upcoming service coordinator Fall Conference 2006, technical assistance will be provided on timely services.

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

APR Template – Part C (4)

South Dakota
State

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES – JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006
Revise monitoring system to allow monitoring of this indicator.	December 2005 monitoring system was revised by adding a timely page to the monitoring process to better identify the provision of timely services. June 2007, an additional component will be added to the monitoring process to document exceptional family circumstances outside of the lead agency's control.
Implement monitoring of this indicator.	Spring 2006 River Birth to 3, Center for Disabilities Birth to 3, and Black Hills B-3 program were monitored for timely services.
Develop and disseminate a guidance document on timely services.	Feb. 2006, a technical assistance document was sent to all providers which included timely services. This document is also available on the Birth to 3 Connections website http://doe.sd.gov/oess/Birthto3/docs/TimelyService.pdf
Provide training and technical assistance for providers and service coordinators reinforcing the importance of starting services in a timely manner and definition "timely" early intervention services	May 2006, Provider Agreement was updated to include timely services. Oct 2006, Birth to 3 state staff will be providing training to service coordinators which includes timely services. Sept. 2006, early intervention providers will be receiving information on timely services with their Payor of Last Resort form for six months.
Birth to 3 Connections program will monitor programs for compliance with this indicator. When noncompliance is identified, state staff will work with the programs to determine nature of noncompliance and develop Corrective Action.	The following local programs were monitored for timely services. There were no compliance issues: River Birth 3, Center for Disabilities Birth to 3, and Black Hills Birth to 3.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

[If applicable]

No revisions necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 2: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.¹

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Measurement: Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children) divided by the (total # of infants and toddlers with IFSPs)] times 100.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	96.3% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs will receive early intervention services primarily in the home, or programs for typically developing children.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006: [Target Met.](#)

Currently, the state is at 96.8% in serving children in the natural environment. This data is based on child count from December 1, 2005. South Dakota has met the target of 96.3%.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for:

South Dakota Part C program does provide services for infant and toddlers in the natural environment. From December 1, 2005, 96.8% of services were provided in the natural environment. Every IFSP is reviewed by state staff to ensure the natural environment requirements are followed correctly. If issues arise, immediate follow-up and technical assistance is provided by the state staff.

Natural Environment in South Dakota 1999-2005

Year	Total on child count December 1	% being served in natural environments
1999	611	97%
2000	645	97%
2001	655	97%
2002	704	96%
2003	830	97%
2004	897	96%
2005	935	96.8%

¹ At the time of the release of this package, revised forms for collection of 618 State reported data had not yet been approved. Indicators will be revised as needed to align with language in the 2005-2006 State reported data collections.

For 2005, there were 96.8 percent of children being served in the natural environment. This is 906 children out of 935 children that had services provided in the natural environment. While child count number continues to increase each year, SD Birth to 3 Connections staff is concerned with the slight dip in 2004 - 2005 percent of children being served in the natural environments. The program will continue to monitor this very closely over subsequent reporting periods. The federal requirement for service setting in child count has changed in 2007. The numbers above does not reflect the actual number with this change otherwise this percent would be higher then 96.8 percent.

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006
<p>Examine State's data to determine age group patterns for participation in natural environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run and analyze data • Share data with regional programs at Annual Fall Service Coordinator Conference • Implement improvement strategies as necessary 	<p>Upcoming 2006 service coordinators Fall Conference, the state office will share the 618 data including the natural environment. The data showed that South Dakota provided early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.</p>
<p>Provide technical assistance on the above activities as needed.</p>	<p>The state staff and service coordinators continue to provide technical assistance as needed to service coordinators to ensure the natural environment requirements are met</p>
<p>Provide training to service coordinators on the 618 setting definitions.</p>	<p>Upcoming Fall Conference for service coordinators, the state office will be sharing the 618 data including the natural environment. The data shows that South Dakota provides early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.</p>
<p>Birth to 3 Connections program will monitor programs for compliance related to this indicator. When noncompliance is identified, state staff will work with the programs to determine nature of noncompliance and develop Corrective Action.</p>	<p>The Birth to 3 Connections program will continue to monitor for compliance issues as needed. When monitoring River Birth to 3, Center for Disabilities Birth to 3 and Black Hills Birth to 3 there were no compliance issues with the natural environment.</p> <p>State staff reviews every IFSP on a daily basis to ensure the requirements for natural environment are met.</p>

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

[If applicable]

No revisions necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 3: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved:

- A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication); and
- C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Measurement:

A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships):

- a. Percent of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.
- b. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.
- c. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.
- d. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.
- e. Percent of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.

If a + b + c + d + e does not sum to 100%, explain the difference.

B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy):

- a. Percent of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.
- b. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers}}{\text{\# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed}} \right] \times 100$.

divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

- c. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.
- d. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.
- e. Percent of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

If a + b + c + d + e does not sum to 100%, explain the difference.

C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs:

- a. Percent of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning = [(# of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.
- b. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.
- c. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.
- d. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.
- e. Percent of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

If a + b + c + d + e does not sum to 100%, explain the difference.

Actual Baseline Entry Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

The following information is entry data from the Battelle Developmental Inventory-Second Edition (BDI-2) for (A) positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships); (B) acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication); and (C) use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs. During March 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006, Birth to 3 Connections had 162 children with BDI-2 entry scores. The total standard deviation scores from each outcome area for each child were used to determine the entry scores. The cutoff for each domain used to determine whether a child entered at age appropriate or below age appropriate is -1.5 Standard Deviations below the norm on the BDI-2 scoring chart. This cutoff was chosen because it aligns with the state eligibility criteria for qualifying for services. A score above -1.5 does not qualify a child for services.

March 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006

Data	% of children who entered at same age level as peers	% of children who entered below same age level as peers	Number of children with entry scores from the BDI-2
Positive Social Emotional Skills	19% 31 children	81% 131 children	162 children
Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills	36% 59 children	64% 104 children	162 children
Use of Appropriate Behavior to Meet Their Needs	20% 33 children	80% 129 children	162 children
Average	25%	75%	

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

In order to obtain the data necessary for Indicator 3 of the SPP, South Dakota began administering the BDI-2 to all children entering the program after March 1, 2006. A post test will be given as these children exit the program. In 2008, pre test and post test scores will be compared to determine progress. The entry scores for the children between March 1, 2006 and June 20, 2006 is being used as baseline entry data. The table above indicates that overall 25% of the children entered at the same age level as peers. It is expected that the majority of children would enter below same age level as peers as the data here indicates due to the nature of serving children with developmental delays.

Annual training was provided to new practitioners and ongoing Technical Assistance will be available to early intervention providers. In January 2006 a notice was sent to the 168 local schools districts in the state on the change of testing requirements and the training for the BDI-2. In February 2006, Part B and C collaborated to provide a statewide training for the BDI -2 in South Dakota. Special Education Programs provided training in 3 areas of the state. In addition a fourth training will occur in September 2006.

This data will provide the State the needed information for both Part B and C to address the child outcome indicators on the State Performance Plan. In March 2006, the Birth to 3 Connections program began collecting the data in all developmental areas which will be translated into the required measures to determine baseline entry data.

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

[If applicable]

No revisions necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 4: Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family:

- A. Know their rights;
- B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
- C. Help their children develop and learn.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Measurement:

- A. Percent = [(# of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights) divided by the (# of respondent families participating in Part C)] times 100.
- B. Percent = [(# of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs) divided by the (# of respondent families participating in Part C)] times 100.
- C. Percent = [(# of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn) divided by the (# of respondent families participating in Part C)] times 100.

FFY	Baseline		
	A. Know their rights	B. Effectively communicate their child's needs	C. Help their child develop and learn
2005 (2005-2006) Baseline	95.6%	89.2%	89.0%

Actual Baseline Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

The following table shows the percentage of families who reported that early intervention services helped on each of the target areas. 96% of the surveyed families reported that the Birth to 3 Connections program helped them know their rights; 89% indicated that the Birth to 3 Connections program helped them effectively communicate their child's needs; and 89% reported that the Birth to 3 Connections program helped them help their child develop and learn.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Process or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

The purpose of the family outcome survey is to assist the Birth to 3 Connections program in determining how early intervention services have helped the family: (A) know their rights; (B) effectively communicate their children's needs, and (C) help their children develop and learn. The survey data will assist the program in tailoring early intervention services and will result in positive outcomes for families as well as improved outcomes for children.

Survey data was collected from July 2005 through June 2006. Between July 2005 and December 2005, surveys were mailed to families leaving the Birth to 3 Connection program (either exiting the program or transitioning to Part B). Between January 2006 and June 2006, the survey was delivered in person to each exiting family by the service coordinator at the family's Transition Planning Conference. Families were asked to complete and then mail the survey; they were assured of confidentiality.

Between July 2005 and June 2006, 675 surveys were distributed and 177 were returned for a response rate of 26.2%. Three of the nine program areas had very low response rates. A 10-item "short-form" survey was created and mailed to 104 families in these program areas. Ten of the 104 short-form surveys were completed and returned. Thus, the overall response rate was raised to 27.7% (187/675).

In addition, the responses of the short-form surveys were compared to the responses of the original-form survey and no significant differences were found. This suggests that there is no significant difference in attitudes toward the Birth to 3 Connections program between families who responded to the survey and families who did not. However, the number of returned short-form surveys was small (i.e., 10) so it is still possible that differences do exist but that this sample size is too small to detect it.

After item results were calculated, Part C staff members reviewed the items to determine which of the 47 items related to each of the three target areas: (A) know their rights; (B) effectively communicate their children's needs; and (C) help their children develop and learn. Three items were selected for area A, six items for area B, and four items for area C. Based on the item selections, each survey respondent received a "percent of maximum" score for each target area that indicated the percentage of points the respondent "awarded" to early intervention services. A respondent who rated early intervention services a "6" (Very Strongly Agree) on each item for a given target area received a 100% score for that target area; a respondent who rated early intervention services a "1" (Very Strongly Disagree) on each item for a given target area received a 0% score. A respondent who rated early intervention services a "4" (Agree) on each item for a given target area received a 60% score for that target area.

After the item selection, Part C staff members decided where to set the cut-score for determining that early intervention services did indeed help a respondent (A) know their rights, (B) effectively communicate, and (C) help their child develop and learn. Staff members decided that a 60% cut score represented the most-appropriate cut score. A 60% cut-score is representative of a family who, on average, agrees with each item for that target area; as such, the family member is agreeing that early intervention services helped the family. The staff members did not believe it was appropriate to insist that respondents "strongly agree" (a cut score of 80%) or "very strongly agree" (a cut score of 100%) that early intervention services helped their family in order for the respondent to be counted as someone who believes that early intervention services helped them.

This first year of data collection indicates that the large majority of families believe that early intervention services have helped them know their rights, effectively communicate their child's needs, and help their child develop and learn. In fact, almost 100% of families state that early intervention services helped them know their rights. Almost 90% state that early intervention services have helped them effectively communicate their child's needs and have helped them help their child develop and learn.

While these three “overall” percentages provide a benchmark of the extent to which the Birth to 3 Connections program is helping families, the program has also reviewed individual item results to determine specific areas in which they can make improvements in how they communicate with, relate to, and help the families. The regional programs will be given their individual survey results so that they might also target specific areas for improved family and child outcomes.

The state has contracted with an outside expert consultant through Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center that conducts all survey analyzes of the data relating to this indicator. The representativeness of the surveys was assessed by examining the demographic characteristics of the children of the parents who responded to the survey to the demographic characteristics of children in the Part C system in South Dakota. This comparison indicates the results are representative by geographic region where the child receives services. White students were slightly over-represented and Native American children were slightly under-represented. However, enough surveys were received from families of Native American children to be able to analyze results and determine implications for this group of children. Furthermore, survey responses did not significantly differ by child race/ethnicity, so weighting of overall results was not necessary

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

The data collected this first year suggest a few concerns with the survey. First, the response rate of 27.2% is lower than desired. A higher response rate was expected given that many surveys were delivered in person to the family member by a Part C staff member. The length of the survey possibly lowered the response rate. In general, survey research has shown that the shorter the survey, the higher the response rate. The reading difficulty of the items is a second concern and might have discouraged some families completing the survey. A third concern is the high percentage of respondents who did not complete some questions. Generally, the percentage of nonrespondents on any given question should be under 5%. However, the percentage of nonrespondents on the 47 questions ranged from 2% to 53%. Any nonreponse percentage above 10% indicates a potential problem with the question.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

[If applicable]

Part C staff will be examining the survey questions and deciding whether the wording of the item, length of the survey or the response scale needs to change to eliminate the high percentage of nonresponse. Stakeholders will be involved in this process if changes are made to the survey questions.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Indicator 5: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs compared to:

- A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions; and
- B. National data.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement:

- A. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 1)] times 100 compared to the same percent calculated for other States with similar (narrow, moderate or broad) eligibility definitions.
- B. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 1)] times 100 compared to National data.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	South Dakota will increase under age 1 child count to .91 percent of infant and toddlers.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 is 91 percent. [Target not met.](#)

Currently, the state is at 0.82 percent. The number is based on December 1, 2005 child count. South Dakota did not meet its target and will be collaborating with the Neonatal Infant Care Units (NICU) in the state during 2007 to increase the number of referrals for children under the age of one.

The preliminary projected figures would indicate for the next year child count (December 1, 2006) this number will increase to 1.25 percent for children under age 1.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Birth to One	2003	2004	2005
Estimated state population of children under the age of one based on 2000 census data	10,463	10,855	11,067
Child count for children under the age of one	70	97	91
Percentage of children birth to one served on December 1, 2003	0.67%	0.89%	0.82%
National goal (actual achievement)	1.00% (0.97%)	1.00% (0.92%)	1.00% (0.92%)

Discussion of Baseline Data:

Of the 13 states in the moderate eligibility criteria category, South Dakota ranks 7th in percentage of children served age birth to one (based on data from December 1, 2004). Seventy children out of 10,463 children in the state of this age or 0.67% had active IFSPs on December 1, 2003. This is .03% below the national goal for states as set by OSEP of serving 1% in this age group.

The FFY 2005 state data shows that South Dakota served ninety-one children. The percentage of children served on December 1, 2005 is 0.82%. This is significant increase from 0.67% in 2003. In 2005, the number has decreased to 0.82% from the previous year 0.89% in 2004. The fall of 2006, the Birth to 3 Connections program will be collaborating with the three NICUs in the state on the referrals to the Birth to 3 Connections program.

With the Birth to 3 Connections program projected preliminary numbers indicates on December 1, 2006 child count that there is an increase of 1.25 percent or 139 children under age one. This is an indicator the state will be watching to determine if this is a trend within the state or just demographic anomaly.

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

South Dakota did not meet its target and will be collaborating with NICU in the state during 2007 to increase the number of referrals for children under the age of one. The preliminary projected figures would indicate for the next year child count (December 1, 2006) this number will increase to 1.25 percent for children under age 1.

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006
Collect data on referral sources and identify gaps in outreach	The state office continues to collect referral data from the regional program.
Meet with Neonatal Infant Care Units (NICUs) staff of Sioux Valley Hospital, Avera McKennan Hospital, and Rapid City Regional Hospital, to dialog with them about the importance of Birth to 3 Connections program for families in South Dakota.	A memo was sent to the NICUs from the secretary of DOE. The Fall of 2006, the Birth to 3 Connections program will be meeting with the three NICUs in the state on referrals to the Birth to 3 Connection program.
Have memorandums of understanding (MOU) developed with each NICU in the state	At this time, MOU has not been developed. The MOU will be pending on referrals from the NICUs.
Identify each of the birthing facilities in the state and develop a training packet and presentation on appropriate referrals to Birth to 3 Connections.	The state program will be meeting with the three NICUs the fall of 2006 on referrals to the program.
Review and update marketing materials and website for the Birth to 3 Connections program	The Birth to 3 Connections materials and website are reviewed every quarter or as needed.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006
[If applicable]

See above for discussion of continued activities to meet the target.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Indicator 6: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to:

- A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions; and
- B. National data.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement:

- A. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 3)] times 100 compared to the same percent calculated for other States with similar (narrow, moderate or broad) eligibility definitions.
- B. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 3)] times 100 compared to National data.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	South Dakota will increase the percent of infants and toddlers birth to three served under Birth to 3 Connections to 2.85 percent.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006. [Target met.](#)

Currently the state is at 2.91 percent. The data is based on child count from December 1, 2005. South Dakota has met the target of 2.85 percent.

Birth to Three	2003	2004	2005
Estimated state population of children under the age of three based on 2000 census data	31,183	31,624	32,168
Child count for children served under the age of three	830	897	935
Percentage of children served birth to three	2.66%	2.84%	2.91%
National goal (actual achievement)	2% (2.23%)	2% (2.24%)	2% (2.24)

Discussion of Baseline Data:

Of the 13 states in the moderate eligibility criteria, South Dakota ranks 6th in percentage of children served age birth to three. The state data shows that South Dakota served 935 children or 2.91 percent had active IFSPs on December 1, 2005. The estimated population of children for this age in 2005 is 32,168.

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

Since 1992 when child count was first reported to OSEP the numbers have grown from 260 active IFSPs on the December 1 child count to 935 counted on December 1, 2005. There has been a steady increase of 9 percent of children in the last two years. This is 0.67% above the national average of children served in 2005. It is 0.91 % above the national goal for states as set by OSEP.

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
Collect data on referral sources and identify gaps in outreach	Service coordinators collect the referral data on IFSPs and for children that do not qualify for the program.
Maintain current child find practices	The state office sends out marketing information and materials statewide to a variety of contacts. Service coordinators market the program within their local area.
Provide training for service coordinators on methamphetamine (meth) issues. The following information was addressed child endangerment, signs and symptoms of meth use and making sure you are aware of your environment.	During October 2005 service coordinator fall conference a presentation focused on meth issues.
Collaborate with Department of Social Services and Department of Human Services on procedure for referring children to the Birth to 3 Connection Program	Spring of 2006, a training was presented to DSS regional managers and Dept. Human Service Drug and Alcohol staff on the referral process to the Birth to 3 program.
Review and update marketing materials and website for the Birth to 3 Connections program	The Birth to 3 Connections program has continued to update and market the program from July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

[If applicable]

No revisions necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Indicator 7: Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement:

Percent = [(# of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting was conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline) divided by the (# of eligible infants and toddlers evaluated and assessed)] times 100.

Account for untimely evaluations.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	100% of eligible infants and toddlers will have an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting within 45 days of referral.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006: Target not met.

South Dakota is currently at 97.3% the target for this indicator is 100%. The data are valid and reliable. With the Birth to 3 Connections software system, state staff can now pull a report on the 45 day timeline which is a new addition.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

Data for 2005-2006 were determined by conducting a desk audit of data in the state data system. Follow-up review of child's records was completed to determine reasons for delays. The 45 day timeline was exceeded for 31 children out of 678. Initial IFSP meetings for 13 of the 31 children had delays over the 45 day timeline that are attributed to family delays. The remaining 18 children in 3 local programs exceeded the 45 day timeline for reasons attributable to the system. 97.3 percent of children had initial IFSP meeting within the 45 day of initial referral.

As a result, the three regional programs are being cited for non-compliance. A letter is being sent as soon as possible to each of the 3 regional programs. The state is following-up to ensure corrections are made within the year.

A new element has been added to the software system to address the 45-day timeline; this addition makes the system more efficient when pulling valid and reliable reports for the 45-day timeline for each regional program. The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
Revision of page 1 of the IFSP to include referral date and instructions for completion	In September 2005, the state office revised page 1 of the IFSP and added the data piece to the software system.
Generate a list of new IFSPs from July 1, 2005 to capture the date of referral via service coordinator feedback	During this time reports were generated to drill down on why the 45 time frame was exceeded. The state office has been in contact with service coordinators.
Training of service coordinators and technical assistance regarding the addition of the referral date to the IFSP	If the timeline was over the 45 days immediate technical assistance was provided as needed based on every initial IFSP.
Program referral date into data system	A new data element was added to software system and a report can be generated at any point.
Change monitoring system to use the additional element (referral date) for purposes of data verification and monitoring of the 45 day requirement.	A new data element was added to software system and a report can be generated at any point.
Conduct an annual desk audit of the 45 day timeline as a part of the state monitoring system.	The updated data system allows the state to monitor all initial IFSPs for the 45 day time line requirement at the time of submission.
Birth to 3 will monitor programs for compliance with this indicator. When noncompliance is identified, state Birth to 3 staff will work with program to determine nature of noncompliance, develop and implement Improvement Plan or Corrections Action.	<p>When monitoring the River and Center for Disabilities there were no compliance issues with the 45 day timeline.</p> <p>Black Hills Birth to 3 did have compliance issues with the 45 day timeline when monitoring and have an improvement plan in place.</p> <p>Easter Seals will be monitored the spring/summer of 2007 for the 45 day timeline.</p>

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006: *[If applicable]*

No revisions necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Effective Transition

Indicator 8: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including:

- A. IFSPs with transition steps and services;
- B. Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B; and
- C. Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement:

- A. Percent = [(# of children exiting Part C who have an IFSP with transition steps and services) divided by the (# of children exiting Part C)] times 100.
- B. Percent = [(# of children exiting Part C and potentially eligible for Part B where notification to the LEA occurred) divided by the (# of children exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B)] times 100.
- C. Percent = [(# of children exiting Part C and potentially eligible for Part B where the transition conference occurred) divided by the (# of children exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B)] times 100.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target		
2005 (2005-2006)	A. 100% IFSPs with transition steps and services	B. 100% Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B	C. 100% Timely Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 is 100%. Target not met.

South Dakota did meet its target 100 percent for with # A (IFSPs with transition steps and services) and # B (notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B). Currently, South Dakota is at 90 percent for #C (transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B (notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B). The number is based on data from March 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006.

The following table shows accurate data for 2005 – 2006.

March 01 2006 – June 30, 2006

A. IFSP with transition steps and services	B. Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B	C. Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B
100% (188 children)	100% (188 children)	94.6% (178 children out of 188 had transition conference within the designated timeline)

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005- June 30, 2006:

Data for 2005-2006 were determined by conducting a desk audit of data in the state data system. Follow-up review of child's records was completed to determine reason for delays. For the Annual Performance Report, the Birth to 3 Connections program reviewed 4 months of data of all regional programs from March 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006. During this time there were 188 children that were transitioning across the state from the Birth to 3 Connections program. The timelines was exceeded for 19 children out of the 188. There were 9 children that had delays over the transition conference in the required timeline for reasons attributable to family circumstances. Out of this number there were 10 children in 3 regional programs that did not have an IFSP transition conference in the required timeline for reasons attributable to the system. 94.6 percent had transition conference within the designated timeline which includes the 9 children for delays caused by family circumstances.

As a result, the state is in the process of citing these three regional programs for noncompliance in this area. Corrections will be made within one year or sooner if possible.

The transition report has recently been developed with the Birth to 3 Connections software system; this is the reason the program has 4 months of data. Currently, the state does not keep track of the documented exceptional family or other program circumstances for transition conferences. The state office will be adding a component to the data system in order to monitor all circumstances that create untimely transition conferences.

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

SPP- ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
Revise the IFSP to incorporate additional transition planning.	The IFSP plan was revised the fall 2005. The Birth to 3 Connections software system was updated to incorporate the transition planning information. In 2007, an update will be added to the software system for documented exceptional family or other circumstances outside of the lead agency's control.
Train service coordinators regarding the use of the updated IFSP transition and review pages.	The training will be scheduled for the upcoming October 2006 Service Coordinator Fall Conference.

Continue current practice of reviewing transition documentation on IFSPs.	Ongoing with review of IFSPs.
Continue current level of technical assistance to service coordinators.	Ongoing technical assistance with service coordinators.
Collaborate with the 619 Coordinator quarterly to coordinate information to improve transition for children and families.	Ongoing quarterly collaboration with the 619 Coordinator.
Collaborate with the 619 Coordinator to identify areas, districts and providers that need state technical assistance and/or training on transition.	Ongoing quarterly collaboration with the 619 Coordinator

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

[If applicable]

No revision necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:****Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision**

Indicator 9: General supervision system (including monitoring, complaints, hearings, etc.) identifies and corrects noncompliance as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement:

Percent of noncompliance corrected within one year of identification:

- a. # of findings of noncompliance.
- b. # of corrections completed as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification.

Percent = [(b) divided by (a)] times 100.

For any noncompliance not corrected within one year of identification, describe what actions, including technical assistance and/or enforcement that the State has taken.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	100% of general supervision system (including monitoring, complaints, hearings, etc.) identifies and corrects noncompliance as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 is at 100%. [Target met.](#)

The state did not meet the target for this indicator. Currently, South Dakota is at 100%. The three regional programs are in compliance and have closed within one year.

Of the total 3 programs monitored during the cycle there were 4 findings with 1 program. The regional area programs develop and submit an improvement plan which identifies steps that require evidence of change. The regional area programs must implement the identified steps listed in the improvement plan in order to correct the noncompliance. State staff review and approve the improvement plan. Regional area programs submit activities and quarterly progress reports to reach compliance. The state ensures that compliance is made within one year. There was one program that had 4 findings that have corrected and closed within one year. (see table #1)

Table 1

Area	Number of findings made 7/04-6/05	Number of findings corrected 7/05-6/06
General Supervision – Prior Notice/Consent to Evaluate	1	1
General Supervision – Prior Notice/IFSP Meeting	1	1
Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments – Content of IFSP	1	1
Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments – Participants at IFSP meetings	1	1

The Birth to 3 Connections data are valid and reliable because the state staff reviews all data information before final entry into the data software system.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

A program has one year to address any compliance issues. The state ensures that compliance is made within one year of the identification of the noncompliance. A timeline is used to identify the progress of the program so noncompliance is corrected within one year.

The state has a system in place that all corrections will be completed in one year. If a regional program does not meet the corrective action plan within one year. The state evaluates the effectiveness of the various incentives and/or sanctions related to monitoring findings by keeping track of the findings. Those entities that are delinquent in meeting corrective action timelines are notified by letter. The content of the letter includes:

1. The failure to voluntarily correct an identified deficiency constitutes a failure on their part to administer their program in compliance with federal law;
2. The action Office of Educational Services and Support (OESS) intends to take in order to enforce compliance with the state and federal law;
3. The right to a hearing prior to OESS exercise of its enforcement responsibility; and
4. The consequence to OESS enforcement action would have on continued and future state and federal funding.

U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) reported in the November 16, 2006 verification memo to SD Department of Education the following information about the verification visit that occurred in July 2007: "Based on the information provided to OSEP during the verification visit, OSEP believes that the State's Part C general supervision system constitutes a reasonable approach to identifying and correcting noncompliance, and that the State's Part C system for collecting and reporting data from EIS programs is a reasonable approach to ensuring the accuracy of the data the State is required to report to OSEP under IDEA Section 618."

APR Template – Part C (4)

South Dakota

State

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
Continue to monitor applicant areas every three years	State office monitored three local programs in 2005 and three local programs in 2006. In 2007, an update will be added to the software system with transition to document exceptional family or other circumstances outside of the lead agency's control.
Change monitoring system to use the additional element (referral date) for purposes of data verification and monitoring of the 45 day requirement and timely services.	The monitoring system has been updated to include the 45 day requirement. With this system, the state office can generate a report by each local program to know if an area is not meeting this requirement. In 2007, an additional component will be added to the monitoring process for timely services within 30 days to document exceptional family circumstance outside of the lead agency's control.
Conduct a desk audit of the 45 day timeline as a part of the state onsite monitoring system	When monitoring the local programs a report is generated to know whether the local program is meeting the compliance issue with this indicator.
TA and training for service coordinators and providers as needed through out the year	The state office gives immediate TA to local service coordinators, providers, and schools as needed. During the Fall Conference 2006, the SPP/APR and 14 Indicators will be reviewed with the service coordinators.
Review current system of sanctions and incentives including technical assistance	In preparation for the OSEP visits all policies and procedures were reviewed including sanctions and incentives.
Revise sanctions and incentives and making necessary revisions	In preparation for the OSEP visits all policies and procedures were reviewed including sanctions and incentives.
Making changes to contract language as needed	The recent local program contracts included language that was added to cover the 14 SPP - Indicators. The provider agreement was updated to cover Indicator # 1 on timely service.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

[If applicable] **No revisions necessary.**

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:****Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision**

Indicator 10: Percent of signed written complaints with reports issued that were resolved within 60-day timeline or a timeline extended for exceptional circumstances with respect to a particular complaint.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement: Percent = [(1.1(b) + 1.1(c)) divided by 1.1] times 100.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	100 percent of signed written complaints with reports issued will resolved within 60-day timeline.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006: [Target met.](#)

South Dakota is at 100%. South Dakota has had no formal complaints at the state level during this time.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
South Dakota State Education Agency (SEA) staff will review all procedures for conducting complaint investigations. Training and technical assistance is provided to ensure complaint investigators follow the procedural requirements under IDEA.	Part C is coordinating with Part B on the complaint procedures and follow-up.
A protocol will be maintained by SEA to ensure timelines and procedures are followed for complaint resolutions.	Part C is coordinating with Part B on the complaint procedures and follow-up.
The state agency will contract with a regional	Part C is coordinating with Part B on the complaint

resource center in the development of a system of complaint investigators who will contract with the state agency to facilitate complaint investigations.	procedures and follow-up.
Update Special Education Programs (SEP) complaint investigation manual on website and disseminate on the website.	<p>The Parent Right document was updated to meet IDEA 2004 requirements.</p> <p>The complaint forms have been developed and added to the website to assist parents to file a complaint should they wish to proceed with a formal process.</p>
Service Coordinator's Training and technical assistance to assist with the parent rights	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Spanish version of parent rights is available on the Birth to 3 website.</p>
Service Provider Training on parent rights	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Spanish version of parent rights is available on the Birth to 3 website.</p> <p>Surveys indicated that parents know their rights.</p> <p>Parent Rights booklet distributed with every updated provider agreement.</p>
Check for ideas on tracking system for recording issues Pursue feasibility of developing a tracking system for recording resolution of informal issues that are addressed so formal resolution is not necessary.	Reviewed recommendations and decided the tracking system was not appropriate an activity that relates back to the target.

During this period, South Dakota has not had any formal complaints. South Dakota, like other Midwest states, is historically not a litigious state. Since the state has so many small towns, people work hard to settle disputes among themselves before bringing in other parties.

The Part C program collaborates with South Dakota Advocacy, Partners in Policymaking which is an active training program for individuals with disabilities or their family. The state office has a strong relationship with SD Parent Connection. During the summer of 2006, the Governors office appointed the SD Parent Connection director to the Interagency Coordinating Council. SD Parent Connection is a strong component to the Part C program.

The Part C program has consistent service coordinators and state staff in the South Dakota Birth to 3 Connections program for over 210 years of combined services and experience. The Part C state office is very accessible in taking calls daily from service coordinators, parents, school districts or service providers that may have questions or problems. The Birth to 3 Connections program's goal is to assist in problem solving at the lowest level.

The state office reviewed six areas in the Quality Assurance Review during this time frame. The parent questionnaire that was sent out to parents indicated that 98.9% of the parents responded yes to the question "Were you given information about your parental rights in a way that was comfortable and easy to understand?" The surveys from the local areas indicate that parents in South Dakota do know their parental rights.

State staff will review the Parent Rights booklet once Part C regulations are finalized.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

[If applicable]

No revision necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 11: Percent of fully adjudicated due process hearing requests that were fully adjudicated within the applicable timeline.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement: Percent = [(3.2(a) + 3.2(b)) divided by 3.2] times 100.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	100 percent of fully adjudicated due process hearing requests were fully adjudicated within the applicable timeline.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 is 100%. [Target met.](#)

South Dakota is at 100%. South Dakota has had no due process hearing request at the state level during this time.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
The state will monitor its hearing process and timelines to ensure maintenance of 100% adjudication.	In preparation for the OSEP visits all policies and procedures were reviewed with the hearing process.
Update Administrative Rules for South Dakota concerning due process hearings and resolution sessions when final federal regulations are complete.	Waiting final Part C regulations Part C program will collaborate with the Part B director regarding procedures with due process and mediation procedures.
Provide training for legal assistant for the department concerning the update regulations.	Waiting final Part C regulations

Joint training for State staff and parents on procedural safeguards	Waiting final Part C regulations
Conduct update for Part C for hearing officers	Waiting final Part C regulations
Service Coordinator's Training to assist with the parent rights	During the upcoming Fall Conference 2006, Parent Connection will be providing a training on SD Peer Navigator program, dispute resolution and parent rights.
Update parent's rights video	Waiting final Part C regulations

During this period, South Dakota has not had any due process hearing requests. South Dakota, like other Midwest states, is historically not a litigious state. Since the state has so many small towns, people work hard to settle disputes among themselves before bringing in other parties.

The Part C program collaborates with South Dakota Advocacy, Partners in Policymaking which is an active training program for individuals with disabilities or their family. The state office has a strong relationship with SD Parent Connection. During the summer of 2006, the Governors office appointed the SD Parent Connection director to the Interagency Coordinating Council. SD Parent Connection is a strong component to the Part C program.

The Part C program has consistent service coordinators and state staff in the South Dakota Birth to 3 Connections program for over 210 years of combined services and experiences. The Part C state office is very accessible in taking calls daily from service coordinators, parents, school districts or service providers that may have questions or problems. The Birth to 3 Connections program's goal is to assist in problem solving at the lowest level.

The state office reviewed six areas in the Quality Assurance Review during this time frame. The parent questionnaire that was sent out to parents indicated that 98.9% of the parents responded yes to the question "Were you given information about your parental rights in a way that was comfortable and easy to understand?" The surveys from the local areas indicate that parents in South Dakota do know their parental rights.

State will review the Parent Rights booklet once Part C regulations are finalized.

The following changes have been made to the State Performance Plan that was requested by OSEP in SPP letter on March 14, 2006. 1) to the revisions of due process and mediation a) to revise the term developmentally educational benefit to be developmental benefits (on page 46) b) delete the term "and" and replace it with "or" (on page 49) and last sentence of first paragraph to make clear that parties that agree to waive dispute resolution are not required to go to mediation.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

The following changes have been made to the State Performance Plan that was requested by OSEP in SPP letter on March 13, 2006. 1) to the revisions of due process and mediation a) to revise the term developmentally educational benefit to be developmental benefits (on page 46) b) delete the term "and" and replace it with "or" and last sentence of first paragraph to make clear that parties that agree to waive dispute resolution are not required to go to mediation (on page 49).

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006
Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 12: Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements (applicable if Part B due process procedures are adopted).

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement: Percent = (3.1(a) divided by 3.1) times 100.

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

There were no resolutions held in 2005-2006.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

The following changes have been made to the State Performance Plan that was requested by OSEP in SPP letter on March 13, 2006. 1) to the revisions of due process and mediation a) to revise the term developmentally educational benefit to be developmental benefits (on page 46) b) delete the term “and” and replace it with “or” and last sentence of first paragraph to make clear that parties that agree to waive dispute resolution are not required to go to mediation (on page 49).

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 13: Percent of mediations held that resulted in mediation agreements.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement: Percent = $[(2.1(a)(i) + 2.1(b)(i)) \text{ divided by } 2.1] \text{ times } 100$.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	No target necessary when state has less than 10 mediations

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

South Dakota has not had mediation during this time period.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

SPP ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
South Dakota tracks mediations to ensure timelines and procedures are followed.	Ongoing. To date as of July 1, 2006 no mediations have occurred.
Revise Part C Parent Right Booklet	Completed
Revise Parent Rights video	Waiting for Part C final regulations

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

[If applicable]

No revisions necessary.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 14: State reported data (618 and State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report) are timely and accurate.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement: State reported data, including 618 data, State performance plan, and annual performance reports, are:

- a. Submitted on or before due dates (February 1 for child count, including race and ethnicity, settings and November 1 for exiting, personnel, dispute resolution); and
- b. Accurate (describe mechanisms for ensuring error free, consistent, valid and reliable data and evidence that these standards are met).

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target	
2005 (2005-2006)	A. 100% of the state reported data (618, SPP, APR) are timely.	B. 100% of the state reported data (618, SPP, APR) are accurate.

FFY	Accurate Target Data	
2005 (2005-2006)	<p>A. 100% of the state reported data (618, SPP, APR) are timely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted early 618 data January & October (due 2/1/2006 & 11/1/2005) Submitted early SPP November 2005 (due 12/2/2005) Submitted early APR March 2005 (due 03/31/2005) 	<p>B. 100% of the state reported data (618, SPP, APR) are accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted accurate 618 data January & October (due 2/1/2006 & 11/1/2005) Submitted accurate SPP November 2005 (due 12/2/2005) Submitted accurate APR March 2005 (due 03/31/2005)

Actual Target Data for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 is 100%: [Target met.](#)

South Dakota submits accurate 618 data, state performance plan and annual performance report information within the required time lines.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006:

State Birth to 3 staff reviews, analyzes and encodes the data to ensure reliability in the system. The Birth to 3 Connections data collection system has edit checks within the system to better ensure the reliability. Reports are generated to cross check the data for accuracy.

The data is sound because state staff reviews and analyzes the data before the information is entered into the system. The child count data are double checked with the regional area programs to ensure the validity of the data. Each service coordinator signs off on a card to verify the data is correct according to federal and state regulations. The cards are sent to the state Birth to 3 Connections program.

U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) reported in the November 16, 2006 verification memo to SD Department of Education the following information about the verification visit that occurred in July 2007: "Based on the information provided to OSEP during the verification visit, OSEP believes that the State's Part C general supervision system constitutes a reasonable approach to identifying and correcting noncompliance, and that the State's Part C system for collecting and reporting data from EIS programs is a reasonable approach to ensuring the accuracy of the data the State is required to report to OSEP under IDEA Section 618."

SPP - ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES JULY 1, 2005- JUNE 30, 2006
Training for data manager	Attended the Data Manager Meeting in May 2006.
Decisions will be made regarding plans for additions to the data system	Ongoing
Changes will be made to the data system	Timely services and 45 day timeline changes have been added to the software system. The elements have been added to the data system to allow for reporting to meet the IDEA 2004 requirements. Evaluation reports have been developed for child outcome and child find by each county. Transition conference and referral dates have been added to the data system. The Birth to 3 Connections service coordinators and state staff verifies child count each year.
Report Child Count data February 1 st and November 1 st of each year	Ongoing
Quarterly meeting with Bureau of Information and Telecommunications staff regarding the data software and data reports.	Ongoing

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006*[If applicable]*

Fourth activity currently reads – “Report Child Count date October of each year.” Correct wording should read – “*Report Child Count data February 1st of each year.*”

The following activity will be added – “*Exiting and dispute resolution data will be reported November 1st of each year.*”

*Change in the narrative on the SPP – “*A child count report is generated and sent to each service coordinator for verification. The report is signed off by each service coordinator. Necessary corrections are made as a result of this process. The Birth to 3 Connections service coordinators and state staff verifies the child count data each year to ensure accurate data.*”